



# WHAT TO EXPECT AT ASSESSMENT



If appropriate, I will come and see you at home and will be with you for approx. 2 hours.

We will discuss ways to help your dog be more comfortable with my visit beforehand so we minimise stress for all concerned.

We start with some questions on

- general day
- history
- the problem behaviour
- how you are coping/feeling



This will give me a greater understanding on what is going on with your dog and also of your needs.

I will observe your dog in their home - moving around, interacting with you and with myself. I may raise questions about things I observe which I want to collect more data on.



I will then go on to explain what I think is happening with your dog.

This will involve some theory which I will do my best to make as simple as possible to understand.

Once I have this information, we will discuss our prognosis or what I think your dog needs, how far I can get them and how long this may take.

A prognosis is a guide and not a guarantee and depends on the following

- the severity of the problem
- the history of the problem
- genetics
- early learning
- reinforcement history
- your immediate environment and lifestyle
- my ability to coach you
- your ability to learn and do the training
- your dogs ability to learn.

I will suggest what I think is in everyones' best interests.





We will look immediately at First Aid advice especially if things are not safe under current conditions. The main aim of this is to remove as much stress as I can for all parties.



I will go away and write up my full report. A copy of this goes to your vet.

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Over the next few days, I will send some further information about what is happening and why your dog is showing these behaviours. I prefer to drip feed this information, rather than overwhelming you with too much information at once.



We have a catch up call approx a week after assessment. If I feel your dog needs a programme of behaviour therapy, I will formally invite you onto a programme with me via email which we can discuss on the follow up call.

A programme of therapy and training will be required if

- I need to speak with your vet
- I recommend behavioural medication
- If I suspect there are underlying physical reasons
- training and behaviour modification is required over a period of time